

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for caching multimedia content to an occasionally-connected
2 device, comprising:
3 creating a play list based at least in part on a user's preferences;
4 submitting the play list to a multimedia content provider through a
5 network;
6 downloading multimedia content in the play list to a device when the
7 device is connected to the multimedia content provider and caching the
8 multimedia content on the device; and
9 playing the cached multimedia content while the device is not connected
10 to the multimedia content provider.

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1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein creating a play list comprises:
2 creating an initial play list based on at least one of the following: the user's
3 specifications, a play list pre-defined by the user, and a play list pre-determined
4 by the multimedia content provider;
5 expanding the initial play list by recommending to the user additional
6 content based on the user's preferences; and
7 refining the expanded initial play list based on the user's feedback.

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1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein expanding the initial play list
2 comprises cross-pollinating the initial play list using play lists of other users.

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1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a portable
2 device.

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1 5. The method for claim 1, wherein playing the multimedia content
2 comprises accessing the multimedia content and rendering the multimedia
3 content to the user.

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1 6. The method for claim 5, wherein accessing the multimedia content
2 comprises at least one of the following: unpacking, decrypting, decompressing,
3 and decoding the multimedia content.

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1 7. The method for claim 1, wherein the network comprises at least one of
2 the following: a local area network, a wide area network, the Internet, a terrestrial
3 broadcast network, and a wireless network.

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1 8. A method for distributing multimedia files, comprising:
2 accepting a play list of multimedia files;
3 searching a database for multimedia content according to the play list;
4 processing the multimedia content before the multimedia content is
5 downloaded; and
6 transferring the multimedia content to an occasionally-connected device.

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1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the occasionally-connected device
2 comprises a portable device.

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1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein processing the multimedia files
2 comprises at least one of the following: packaging, encrypting, compressing, and
3 encoding the multimedia files.

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1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the database comprises at least one
2 of static and dynamic multimedia content.

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1 12. A system for caching multimedia contents to an occasionally
2 connected device, comprising:
3 a play list creator capable of creating a play list of multimedia files;
4 a multimedia content provider capable of providing multimedia files
5 specified by the play list for a user to download;

6 a multimedia content cache capable of receiving the multimedia files
7 through a network and storing the multimedia files; and
8 a multimedia content player capable of accessing and rendering the
9 multimedia contents to the user.

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1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the play list creator comprises:
2 a play list generating mechanism capable of generating a play list;
3 a pre-determining mechanism capable of at least one of the following:
4 receiving parameters specifying the user's preferences, loading a user pre-
5 defined play list, and providing a number of play lists pre-determined by the
6 multimedia content provider;
7 a recommendation mechanism capable of expanding the play list by
8 recommending additional multimedia files; and
9 a user feedback uploading mechanism capable of uploading the user
10 feedback to refine the play list.

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1 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the multimedia content provider
2 comprises:
3 a communication port;
4 a multimedia content database;
5 a searching mechanism capable of searching the multimedia content
6 database for multimedia files in the play list; and
7 a content processing mechanism capable of at least one of the following:
8 packaging, encrypting, compressing, and encoding the multimedia files.

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1 15. The system of claim 12, wherein the multimedia content cache
2 comprises:
3 a communication port;
4 a receiving component capable of downloading and receiving the
5 multimedia files from the multimedia content provider through a network; and
6 a storage component capable of storing the multimedia files.

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1 16. The system of claim 12, wherein the multimedia content player
2 comprises:

3 a multimedia content access module capable of at least one of the
4 following: unpacking, decrypting, decompressing, and decoding the multimedia
5 files stored in the multimedia content cache; and

6 a multimedia content rendering mechanism capable of rendering the
7 multimedia files to a user.

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1 17. An article comprising: a machine accessible medium having content
2 stored thereon, wherein when the content is accessed by a processor, the
3 content provides for caching multimedia content to an occasionally-connected
4 device by:

5 creating a play list based at least in part on a user's preferences;
6 submitting the play list to a multimedia content provider through a
7 network;

8 downloading multimedia content in the play list to a device when the
9 device is connected to the multimedia content provider and caching the
10 multimedia content on the device; and

11 playing the cached multimedia content while the device is not connected
12 to the multimedia content provider.

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1 18. The article of claim 17, wherein the content for creating a play list
2 comprises content for:

3 creating an initial play list based on at least one of the following: the user's
4 specifications, a play list pre-defined by the user, and a play list pre-determined
5 by the multimedia content provider;

6 expanding the initial play list by recommending to the user additional
7 content based on the user's preferences; and

8 refining the expanded initial play list based on the user's feedback.

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1 19. The article of claim 18, wherein the content for expanding the initial
2 play list comprises cross-pollinating the initial play list using play lists of other
3 users.

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1 20. The article of claim 17, wherein the device comprises a portable
2 device.

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1 21. The article for claim 17, wherein the content for playing the
2 multimedia content comprises content for accessing the multimedia content and
3 content for rendering the multimedia content to the user.

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1 22. The article for claim 21, wherein the content for accessing the
2 multimedia content comprises content for at least one of the following:
3 unpacking, decrypting, decompressing, and decoding the multimedia content.

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1 23. The article for claim 17, wherein the network comprises at least one
2 of the following: a local area network, a wide area network, the Internet, a
3 terrestrial broadcast network, and a wireless network.

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1 24. An article comprising: a machine accessible medium having content
2 stored thereon, wherein when the content is accessed by a processor, the
3 content provides for distributing multimedia files by:

4 accepting a play list of multimedia files;

5 searching a database for multimedia content according to the play list;

6 processing the multimedia content before the multimedia content is
7 downloaded; and

8 transferring the multimedia content to an occasionally-connected device.

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1 25. The article of claim 24, wherein the occasionally-connected device
2 comprises a portable device.

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1 26. The article of claim 24, wherein the content for processing the
2 multimedia files comprises content for at least one of the following: packaging,
3 encrypting, compressing, and encoding the multimedia files.

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1 27. The article of claim 24, wherein the database comprises at least one
2 of static and dynamic multimedia content.

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